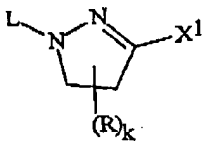
Amendments to Claims

1. (Original) A method for preparing a 3-halo-4,5-dihydro-1*H*-pyrazole compound of Formula I



I

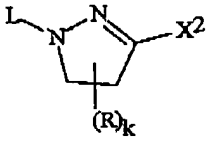
wherein L is an optionally substituted carbon moiety;

each R is independently selected from optionally substituted carbon moieties;

k is an integer from 0 to 4;

and X^1 is halogen; comprising:

contacting a 4,5-dihydro-1*H*-pyrazole compound of Formula II



II

wherein X^2 is $OS(O)_mR^1$, $OP(O)_p(OR^2)_2$ or a halogen other than X^1;

m is 1 or 2;

p is 0 or 1;

R^1 is selected from alkyl and haloalkyl; and phenyl optionally substituted with from 1 to 3 substituents selected from alkyl and halogen; and

each R^2 is independently selected from alkyl and haloalkyl; and phenyl optionally substituted with from 1 to 3 substituents selected from alkyl and halogen;

with a compound of the formula HX^1 in the presence of a suitable solvent.

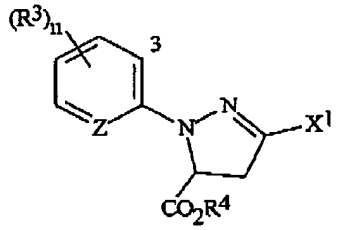
2. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein m is 2 and p is 1.

3. (Original) The method of Claim 2 wherein X^2 is halogen or $OS(O)_mR^1$.

4. (Original) The method of Claim 3 wherein X^2 is Cl or $OS(O)_mR^1$ and R^1 is C_1–C_2 alkyl, phenyl or 4-methylphenyl.

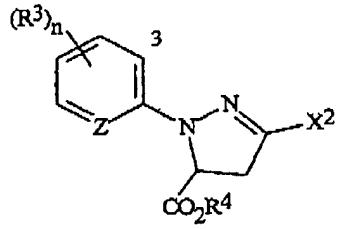
5. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein X^1 is Cl or Br.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the compound of Formula **I** is of Formula **Ia**



Ia

and the compound of Formula **II** is of Formula **IIa**



IIa

wherein

each R^3 is independently C_1–C_4 alkyl, C_2–C_4 alkenyl, C_2–C_4 alkynyl, C_3–C_6 cycloalkyl, C_1–C_4 haloalkyl, C_2–C_4 haloalkenyl, C_2–C_4 haloalkynyl, C_3–C_6 halocycloalkyl, halogen, CN, NO_2, C_1–C_4 alkoxy, C_1–C_4 haloalkoxy, C_1–C_4 alkylthio, C_1–C_4 alkylsulfinyl, C_1–C_4 alkylsulfonyl, C_1–C_4 alkylamino, C_2–C_8 dialkylamino, C_3–C_6 cycloalkylamino, (C_1–C_4 alkyl)(C_3–C_6 cycloalkyl)amino, C_2–C_4 alkylcarbonyl, C_2–C_6 alkoxycarbonyl, C_2–C_6 alkylaminocarbonyl, C_3–C_8 dialkylaminocarbonyl or C_3–C_6 trialkylsilyl;

R^4 is H or an optionally substituted carbon moiety;

Z is N or CR^5;

R^5 is H or R^3; and

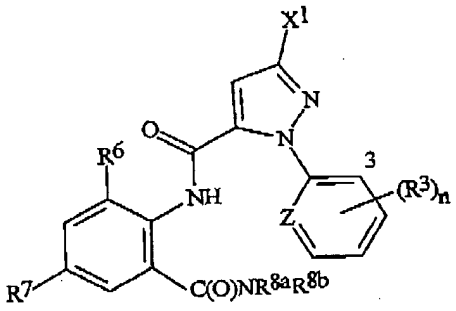
n is an integer from 0 to 3.

7. (Original) The method of Claim 6 wherein R^4 is C_1–C_4 alkyl.

8. (Original) The method of Claim 7 wherein Z is N, n is 1, and R^3 is Cl or Br and is at the 3-position.

9. (Original) The method of Claim 7 wherein X^1 is Br, X^2 is Cl or $OS(O)_mR^1$, m is 2, and R^1 is phenyl or 4-methylphenyl.

10. (Currently Amended) A method of preparing a compound of Formula **III**



III

wherein

X^1 is halogen;

each R^3 is independently C_1–C_4 alkyl, C_2–C_4 alkenyl, C_2–C_4 alkynyl, C_3–C_6 cycloalkyl, C_1–C_4 haloalkyl, C_2–C_4 haloalkenyl, C_2–C_4 haloalkynyl, C_3–C_6 halocycloalkyl, halogen, CN, NO_2, C_1–C_4 alkoxy, C_1–C_4 haloalkoxy, C_1–C_4 alkylthio, C_1–C_4 alkylsulfinyl, C_1–C_4 alkylsulfonyl, C_1–C_4 alkylamino, C_2–C_8 dialkylamino, C_3–C_6 cycloalkylamino, (C_1–C_4 alkyl)(C_3–C_6 cycloalkyl)amino, C_2–C_4 alkylcarbonyl, C_2–C_6 alkoxycarbonyl, C_2–C_6 alkylaminocarbonyl, C_3–C_8 dialkylaminocarbonyl or C_3–C_6 trialkylsilyl;

Z is N or CR^5;

R^5 is H or R^3;

R^6 is CH_3, F, Cl or Br;

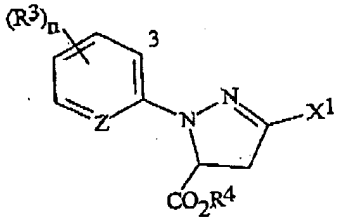
R^7 is F, Cl, Br, I or CF_3;

R^{8a} is C_1–C_4 alkyl;

R^{8b} is H or CH_3; and

n is an integer from 0 to 3

wherein ~~using~~ a compound of Formula **Ia**



Ia

wherein R^4 is H or an optionally substituted carbon moiety, is used as an intermediate during said preparation; characterized by:

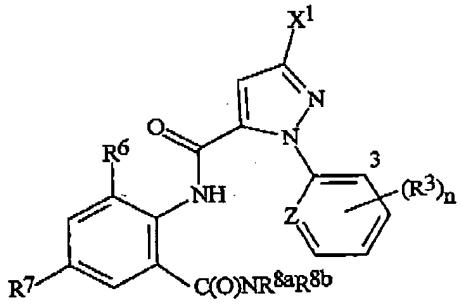
preparing said compound of Formula **Ia** by the method of Claim 6.

11. (Original) The method of Claim 10 wherein R^4 is C_1–C_4 alkyl.

12. (Original) The method of Claim 11 wherein Z is N, n is 1, and R^3 is Cl or Br and is at the 3-position.

13. (Original) The method of Claim 11 wherein X^1 is Br, X^2 is Cl or $OS(O)_mR^1$, m is 2, and R^1 is phenyl or 4-methylphenyl.

14. (New) A method of preparing a compound of Formula III



III

wherein

X^1 is halogen;

each R^3 is independently C_1–C_4 alkyl, C_2–C_4 alkenyl, C_2–C_4 alkynyl, C_3–C_6 cycloalkyl, C_1–C_4 haloalkyl, C_2–C_4 haloalkenyl, C_2–C_4 haloalkynyl, C_3–C_6 halocycloalkyl, halogen, CN, NO_2, C_1–C_4 alkoxy, C_1–C_4 haloalkoxy, C_1–C_4 alkylthio, C_1–C_4 alkylsulfinyl, C_1–C_4 alkylsulfonyl, C_1–C_4 alkylamino, C_2–C_8 dialkylamino, C_3–C_6 cycloalkylamino, (C_1–C_4 alkyl)(C_3–C_6 cycloalkyl)amino, C_2–C_4 alkylcarbonyl, C_2–C_6 alkoxycarbonyl, C_2–C_6 alkylaminocarbonyl, C_3–C_8 dialkylaminocarbonyl or C_3–C_6 trialkylsilyl;

Z is N or CR^5;

R^5 is H or R^3;

R^6 is CH_3, F, Cl or Br;

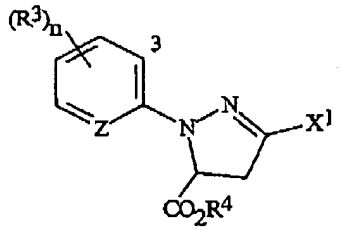
R^7 is F, Cl, Br, I or CF_3;

R^{8a} is C_1–C_4 alkyl;

R^{8b} is H or CH_3; and

n is an integer from 0 to 3

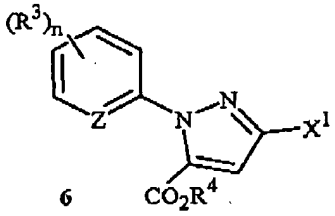
using a compound of Formula Ia



Ia

wherein R^4 is H or an optionally substituted carbon moiety, by for example,

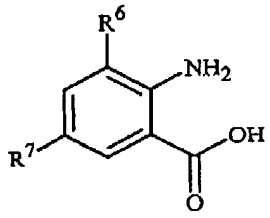
(1) providing a compound of Formula 6 wherein R^4 is H by (a) oxidizing a compound of Formula **Ia** to form a compound of Formula **6**;



6

(b) if R^4 for the compound of Formula **6** formed in (a) is an optionally substituted carbon moiety, hydrolyzing said compound of Formula **6** formed in (a);

(2) providing a compound of Formula **8** either by (c) coupling said compound of Formula **6** wherein R^4 is H provided in (1) with a compound of Formula **7**; or by



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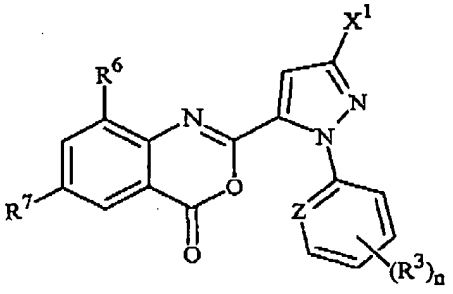
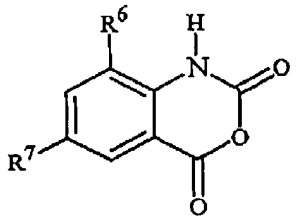


8

(d1) chlorinating said compound of Formula **6** wherein R^4 is H provided in (1) to form a compound of Formula **10**; and

(d2) coupling said compound of Formula **10** with a compound of Formula **9**; and



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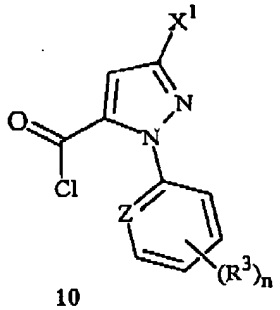

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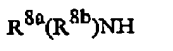
(3) reacting said compound of Formula **8** provided in (2) with a compound of Formula **11**.



11 ;

characterized by:

preparing said compound of Formula **Ia** by the method of Claim 6.

15. (New) The method of Claim 14 wherein R^4 in the compound of Formula **Ia** is C_1–C_4 alkyl.

16. (New) The method of Claim 15 wherein Z is N, n is 1, and R^3 is Cl or Br and is at the 3-position.

17. (New) The method of Claim 15 wherein X^1 is Br, X^2 is Cl or $OS(O)_mR^1$, m is 2, and R^1 is phenyl or 4-methylphenyl.